The Call Letter

April, 2023
Volume 49 #4

Northwest Vintage Radio Society proudly presents our Spring Radio Show and Sale

Saturday, April 8th 2023 9:am - 1:pm

American Legion Hall, 21510 Main St. NE
Aurora, Oregon 97002

Door Prizes

OTAPS will join us so bring your vintage phonograph parts and collections

The Northwest
Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379 Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment. Membership is open to all. The dues are $25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year.

The Call Letter has been in print since 1974 and is a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, restoring and preserving vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of most months at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all public meetings and functions. Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, restoration classes, radio shows, and radio sales which are announced in the Call Letter and held in and around the Pacific Northwest.

With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1998. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.

Society Officers

President Pat Kagi (360 909-7009) patkagi@yahoo.com
Vice President Franklin Ouchida crazykeychains@gmail.com
Treasurer Ed Tompkins (360 635-2489) edtomp@gmail.com
Recording Secretary Scott Thomas wst123@comcast.net
Board member Mike McCrow (503) 730-4639) soundmikey14@gmail.com

Key Volunteers

Call Letter Editor Dick Karman Relivingradio@karmans.net
Archivist Dan Howard nvrsdan@gmail.com
Photographer Sonny Clutter Radiolaguy@outlook.com

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Radio Repair Mentors

Members willing to mentor small groups in Radio Restoration:

Blake Dietze	360 944-7172 Vancouver
Ed Tompkins	360 635-2489 Vancouver
Mike McCrow	503 730-4639 Beaverton

President's Notes

From Pat Kagi, President

Hopefully everyone will be at the April Swap Meet on the 8th in Aurora, Oregon. We are inviting OTAPS members to join in with us and we are pushing advertisement through KISN radio, Craig's list and social media such as Facebook.

April 15th is fast approaching. This is the cut-off date for renewing your membership for 2023. We will be sending out email reminders to let everyone who hasn't paid to get their payment in ASAP. If you know you are not going to renew, we would appreciate an exit interview so we can address any shortcomings the club has in hopes of retaining more members. We are also looking for a few volunteers to help in contacting these members.

And we are still looking for volunteers to attend the Tesla City Stories live theater shows.

Watch your emails for upcoming open homes, or be one yourself!

Vice President Notes

From Franklin Ouchida

The Board has made April 15 the deadline to renew your membership. You can pay your dues on-line with PayPal at NWVRS.ORG@gmail.com please use Friends and Family option.

PLEASE!

• I need Tech Talk speakers. Something short that pertains to radio that can be presented at a meeting, in person or on Zoom.

Wednesday Radio Nights Zoom

Members and guests are all welcome to join us every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm (pacific time) for WRNZ (Wednesday Radio Nights on Zoom). We get to know one another; we chat about radios, and each Wednesday we've included a mini-class in vintage electronics and repair. Everyone is welcome and the society activities are just as close as your computer or phone.

Featured Radios at Saturday Meetings

Featured radios are those brands, types, or models that conform to an item in their name: for instance a radio brand starting with an "R" would fit the bill for the R feature, just like a "01A" tube would fit the requirement for an "A" or a "1" feature.

The featured radios for our 2023 meetings will be:

- May "4"
- June"5"
- July none picnics
- August "6"
- September -- none swap meet
- October "7"
- November "1923 radios "
- December -- none Christmas party

Tech Talk

From Sonny Clutter

I gave a tech talk in March on restoring a damaged front panel. It just happened to be on the radio of the month (3 tube radio). To be clear, the Standardyne has one tube but functions as 3 as it used the Multivalve which is really a 201A sized bulb with three 201A elements inside: One of the very first multi-section tubes. It plugs into the same UX socket as any other early 4 pin tube but has a ring with 4 extra terminals for the extra plates and grids.

The NW Vintage Radio Society sends April Birthday Wishes to:

Dick Howard
Gary Johnson
Martin Moore
James Seward
Daniel Wells
Myron White

If you'd rather not have your birthday recognized in the Newsletter please let the board know at patkagi@yahoo.com

Meeting Minutes

From Scott Thomas, secretary

The March 4th, 2023 meeting of the NWVRS was called to order at 9:30 AM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

New Members: Mike Farabee, Bob Neeland

Health & Welfare: Bob Walters needs a ride to the club meetings

Treasurer Report: Ed reports a small loss to the Jim Mason Fund, and the club is on solid financial footing.

Action Items:

Changes of the Bylaws to include group update and opportunity to vote for proposed changes.

Leads and Needs:

Damon needs an Android Phone for text to speech.

Rich Lange, a new club member is selling radios, and is willing to deliver them to Puyallup. Franklin can provide transportation of the radios to Portland for club members.

Old Business:

White Board purchase has not been done, the board needs to be smaller for storage purposes.

New Business:

Tesla City Stories Theater 3/10/23 Tickets are available.

Open Homes, Pat is looking for club members who want to show off their radios!

Wednesday night Zoom meetings will be featuring Transistors. Franklin is looking for volunteers to host tech talks on Zoom.

Columbia Springs will host a Radio Triage on May 4th. Looking for club members to diagnose and possibly do limited radio repair.

NWVRS will attend KBPS 100 year celebration, Monarch Hotel

April Swap Meet:

Tables are filling up upstairs, if you want a table contact Scott Thomas, 503-341-2385 or email wst123@comcast.net

Tube of the Month: 35 tube, see the Call Letter.

Monthly Feature:

Three Tube Radios, George Kirkwood showed two examples, of radios manufactured by the California Radio Co.,

Blake showed his Trego 3 tube radio,

Brian Toon showed 2 examples of the 1st Heathkit Radios with two different three tube combinations.

Sonny showed a 3 tube radio, and demonstrated his technique to repair a damaged phenolic or bakelite radio escutcheon.

Meeting was Adjourned

At the KBPS 100 year anniversary NWVRS displayed radios and equipment that were nearly 100 years old. Dick Howard, Dick Karman and Dan Howard greeted folks and represented the society.

100 year celebration of KBPS

In March 2023 Portland Public Schools and the Benson High School Alumni Association celebrated 100 years on the air for KBPS. Dick Karman was invited to attend and display radios, transmitter, and reprints of history articles at the celebration. He was joined by Dan and Dick Howard at the event. This is some KBPS history.

In 1922 several young men were building radio transmitters in the Portland market: well-known names like Charlie Austin, Joe Hallock, and Wilbur Jerman, and some not-so-well-known ones like Ray Beamer and Roy Yonge. Better known than the makers were the call letters that their transmitters were know by.

7XG was built by Charlie Austin in 1921. The “X” indicated it was experimental. That transmitter was sold to W. P. Hawley of paper-making notoriety. Hawley Broadcasting soon failed, and the transmitter was listed for sale at Stubb’s Electric.

In 1921, the Benson High School applied for and received a government license to operate a "Technical School" station with the call sign 7YK in Portland. This was a code-only station; it was spark-gap transmitter, limited to code transmission. Benson students learning about the “new” transmitter wanted to move to a commercial license. When they recognized a commercial transmitter in the window of Stubb’s Electric they started to find funding to buy it. More than $1,800 was raised to buy the rig.

In 1923 you had to have a “construction license” to build a radio station. They were issued a license and the call letters KFIF on March 23, 1923. Thus KBPS is celebrating 100 years.

KFIF was originally assigned a frequency of 833 kHz (360 meters), which was a shared "entertainment" wavelength. By rule, it was limited to certain “shared hours” of broadcasting. In late 1924 KFIF was reassigned to 1210 kHz, then moved to 1400 kHz (1927), and then to 1310 kHz (1928). In November, 1928, it settled down to a "local" frequency of 1420 kHz.

Many transmitters have replaced the original down through the years. Local broadcasters, a few national broadcast voices, and countless students got their start at KBPS. The early history of the station is documented by Patricia Green (Swenson) in a 1958 doctoral thesis about educational broadcasting. Mrs. Swenson was the station’s general manager from 1946 and into the 1990s.

Mrs. Swenson thesis documented the benefits of broadcast education in the high school and mixed in the benefits to the rest of the school district by receiving these and other broadcasts as part of each grade level’s curriculum.

Her paper showed examples of daily programming schedules; quite a handful when it was done solely by students. She told of the battle with the FCC to permit the station to stop broadcasting during the summer vacation. Any other station that went silent for 90 days would lose their license.

The alumni association held an all-day “reunion” on March 18th when all KBPS alumni were welcome to meet and celebrate the last 100 years. NWVRS displayed 100 year old radios.

Since it is still broadcasting today and pursuing its original purpose, it can truly be accepted as the oldest station with the same owner in the state.

(Editor)

100 years ago . . .

History from the pen of Art Redman

[About the same time that KBPS was licensed as KFIF, there were Portland stores selling radio parts over the counter to enthusiastic students and adults, like Lipman & Wolfe and the Jones Cash Store. Ed.]

The Jones Cash Store

The Jones Cash Store of Portland, Oregon, was located at 111 SE Belmont east of the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks and station. Jones sold groceries, produce, furniture, toys, and radio parts. Beginning during June 1922, Jones sold their *"Little Wonder Crystal Set" having* a 15-to-20-mile range. The other radio components offered during 1922 were 'A' batteries, 45 and 22.5 volt 'B' batteries, earphones, variometers, contact points, variocouplers, knife switches, binding posts, and UV 200 tubes.

The Jones set was a mounted inductor (coil) having the crystal detector mounted on the top surface and retailed at $5.15. The unmounted version sold for $4.75. The set was tuned by a contact switch on one end contacted to taps inside the coil form.

"JONES LITTLE WONDER"
Crystal Set
Mounted—Special
$5.15
In stock: Double Silk Magnet Wire. Radiotron U. V. 200 Tubes. Special for One Week, $4.95.
We Carry a Complete Line of
Head Sets
1000 Ohms Single $2.95
2000 Ohms Double $4.95
RADIO SETS and SUPPLIES
WRITE FOR OUR FREE RADIO CATALOG, NO. 29
Jones Cash Store
EAST FIRST AND MORRISON STREETS

The *"Wonder"* label was later used by other companies for crystal sets. Meier and Frank store referred to a Philmore crystal set as a *"Little Wonder"* in *1925.* The Howe crystal set, although much smaller than the Jones' 1922 model, was sold as the *"Wonder Crystal Set"*. Somehow being *"Little"* was not a good marketing point in 1925 radio advertising.

The Jones Cash Store began as a mail order company in 1882 by F.A. Jones at SW Front and SW Oak Street. Jones sold all interest in the store in 1904 to H.J. Ottenheimer. Jones was not involved in crystal set manufacturing eighteen years later. The company which manufactured the Jones Crystal set is unknown since the Jones Cash Store was only the marketing brand.

During March 1921, The Jones Cash Store moved to the east side of Portland becoming a supermarket selling food, produce, furniture, and radio parts, *with "plenty of room to park your car"* compared to downtown Portland stores. The store was sold to Montgomery Ward in 1933.

Memories of the March Meeting

Trego radio displayed by Blake Dietze

Standardyne displayed by Sonny Clutter

Three tube Heathkits from Brian Toon

Three tube sets from George Kirkwood

All photos by Sonny Clutter, Society Photographer

SPRING SWAP MEET

NW Vintage Radio Society

and the

Oregon Territory Antique Phonograph Society

at

the American Legion Hall,
21510 Main Street in Aurora, Oregon,

April 8, 2023 9 am to 1 pm

Letter to the Editor

THE QST HISTORY MISSTATEMENT

From Ludwell Sibley. KB2EVN

The American Radio League publishes QST, its monthly magazine, with a "Classic Radio" column. The December 2022 issue presented "Amateur Radio Equipment with a Hot Chassis." It claimed that the once-popular Hallicrafters S-38 and National SW-54 receivers were killers of this type. It sneered at others as similarly dangerous: the Echophone EC-1B; the Hallicrafters S-29, S-39, S-40B, S-41, S-52, S-72, S-93, S-200, and S-210; and the National NC-60 Special, NC-66, and NC-77X.

Looking these sets up in Rider's manuals and Sams' Photofacts shows that the accusations are wrong. None have a hot chassis. They follow the usual practice of having a small capacitor, often shunted with a discharge resistor, between the chassis and the "B-" bus, which is one side of the power line. Two have the isolation given by transformers.

A few of these radios don't appear in Rider's or Sams. The S-200 is diagrammed in AWA's The Hallicrafters Story, 1933-1975. The S-210, NC-60 Special, NC-66, and NC- 77X also not covered. However, they appeared long after Underwriters Laboratories set rigid limits on the leakage that a radio could emit if the set was to get approval.

Factory schematics are available on the Web for the NC60 Special, NC-66 and NC-77X. The one set that the column identifies correctly is the Hallicrafters S-22 "Skyrider Marine," an obscure low-frequency set introduced in 1938.

The "correspondence" input of the magazine received first and follow-up alerts sent in late November, with diagrams of the S-38 and SW-54 included. The editor got a highly detailed report in early January. However, no answer has been received and no attempt has been seen to correct the error, even in the March issue.

Swap Shop

For Sale

I have 5 Zenith Transoceanic radios. 4 are 500 series and 1 is a 600 series. They have all been cleaned and tubes checked. All are working but have not been recapped. $135 each. If you are interested. 541-231-0961 James R. Uerlings, - Albany, Or 97322

Wanted

Radios made in Oregon. I'm seeking radios, parts and information on brands such as Long Bros, Northwestern Radio Manufacturing (Norco), Hallock & Watson (Halowat), and Heacock. Dick Howard dhoward27@comcast.net

Wanted

Radio Antenna Parts. I am looking for antenna insulators, lightning arresters, vintage antenna switches, and antenna kits. Dan Howard nvrsDan@gmail.com

For Sale

National HRO 7 complete with speaker, power supply and s/n matched coils, many HRO parts, coils for various HRO models, wooden coil boxes, dial scales for HRO 50 & 60, manuals, etc. Dan Howard nvrsDan@gmail.com

Wanted

2 brown knobs for a Westinghouse H126 "Refrigerator Radio"

A Toshiba 7TP30 in black. (Cosmetically clean)
A Packard Bell 5R1 any Parts, Part Sets and/or Displayable Sets in Pink, Yellow and Green.
Looking for a Arborcone Speaker for my Arborphone 26
971-407-8108

Franklin Ouchida crazykeychains@gmail.com

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FIRST CLASS MAIL